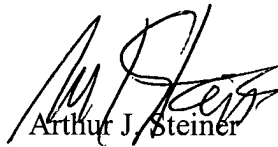


REMARKS

The above-referenced application has been amended to include changes in the specification. Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made. Entry of this preliminary amendment is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

MCDERMOTT, WILL & EMERY



Registration No. 26,106

600 13th Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20005-3096
(202)756-8000 AJS:prp
Facsimile: (202)756-8087
Date: April 4, 2002

20040404 14:23:00

Docket No.: 50212-380

MARKED-UP VERSION OF AMENDMENT

The paragraph beginning at line 5 on page 20 has been amended as follows:

The buffer chamber 241 (second buffer cell 245) and the protecting tube 21 are partitioned with a partition wall 251. The partition wall 251 is formed with an optical fiber passage hole 254 through which the optical fiber 3 passes. The optical fiber passage hole 254 has an inner diameter set to about 4 to 5 mm. A major part of the gas introduced into the second buffer cell 245 is let out from the outlet duct 248 [144]. Here, the N₂ gas or the like is not introduced for filling the protecting tube 21 with the N₂ gas or the like, but for preventing the He gas or the like from flowing into the protecting tube 21.

2025-07-26 09:00